

the school



NEWSLETTER

JULY - 2025

Editorial- This issue of the school newsletter is about the first month after reopening of school for the new academic year, 2025-26. We hope that readers will get a sense of what happened in different parts of school through pictures and writings.

The First Day of School



The LKG students came into school for the first time, with all their enthusiasm, tears and laughter on 16th June 2025. Parents saying goodbye to their little ones even as they clung to them were some scenes that one saw that day. The Kindergarten teachers, Saradha Akka and Sangeetha Akka along with many other teachers helped the little ones walk to their classroom. A few hours into the day, one could see a happy lot of students playing at the play structures, colouring, and singing as they settled down into their new routine. As one Class 1 student remarked to this teacher, “They will settle down soon Akka. I was also like this in LKG!”



A visit by Tarit Anna



Tarit Bhattacharjee, or Tarit Anna as we all refer fondly to him visited school after his retirement for the first time since he moved to Kolkata. It was wonderful to have Anna back on campus, talking to the students and sharing his thoughts around art with them.

He got quickly into action by getting a group of students to work on a wall mural around the Assembly Hall. He also did some sessions on art with the junior school students as well as the senior school students. As one junior school student said, “Anna talked to us about laddoos and also made us draw them!”

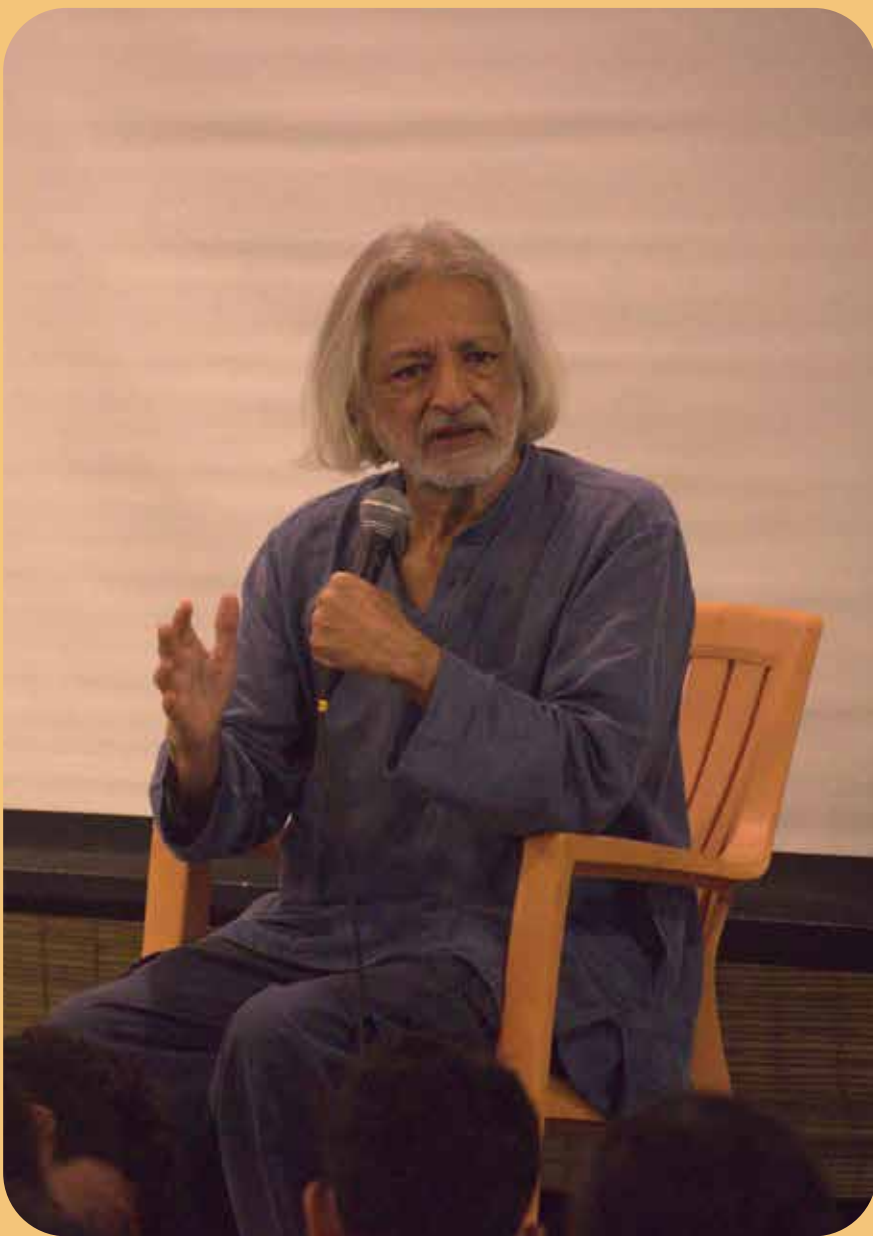
Such is the energy that Anna brings into his work though he has retired a long while ago. We hope he will visit us more often in future.



A Special Screening



The senior school students had the opportunity to interact with documentary film maker Mr. Anand Patwardhan who visited the school to screen his film from 2023 titled- 'Vadudhaiva Kutumbakam'- The world is family.



This special assembly happened on 20 th June 2025 at 10.30am in the Assembly Hall. The teachers of school and a few parents from the junior school were also part of the audience.

The film was a personal narrative by Mr. Anand Patwardhan with snippets from his own life, conversations with his parents and other family members. Into this was woven the struggle for Independence as his uncle Mr. Achyut Patwardhan was also a big part of the movement.



The screening ended with a question answer session wherein students asked about the relevance of the title of the movie, his thoughts on the current political situation in the world, the techniques he used in the creation of this film among many other questions.

Mr. Anand Patwardhan was accompanied for this session by Ms. Seemanthini Dhuru, who was part of the camera and sound for the film making.

A Music Recital by Abhishek Krishna

The first long assembly of the school started on a melodious note, with a performance of Carnatic songs by Abhishek Krishna, an alumnus of the school who was accompanied on the Mridangam by Hari, a student of Class 12. Abhishek began by talking about his time in school when he had been a student himself.



The one hour long assembly was enjoyed by everyone. It marked a remarkable beginning to the long assemblies in school. It was truly wonderful that a student who had completed his journey at school was now back to share his love for music through this musical rendition.



The Orientation for the Festival of Drama and Dialogue

The students of Class 11 have begun their work towards the Festival. This year there are eleven schools participating in the two day event scheduled for later this month. The festival is a non- competitive forum where students perform, engage in dialogue and meet students from different schools. The Orientation Program was attended by participants from nine schools and it was anchored by Mr. Chander Mouli- the resource person this year, a theatre artiste who is also a parent of the school. The intention of the orientation is to help students work with different aspects of theatre as they work towards creating their plays for presentation at the festival.





The participants began with learning techniques of feeling free in the performance space. There were several nuggets of advice regarding devices, techniques and perspectives that were shared during the input session. The day ended with mixed school groups presenting short sketches on prompts given to them by the resource person. The students worked diligently together and engaged with all the activities with enthusiasm. They met students from different schools, worked with them and enjoyed conversations over the juice break and lunch time.



Some begin, some continue

The new academic year started with welcoming the students into campus with a good assortment of group activities aimed at familiarisation, exploration and engagement with the people, spaces and plans for the year ahead.

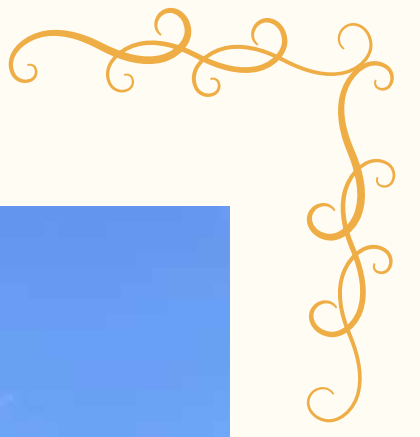
Middle School Students across the different groups had a common orientation plan for the first week of school. The first day started with an ice-breaker activities or games to help everyone meet each other. A campus walk was also organised to help students who have freshly joined middle school to understand their new environment. The week long orientation allowed students to go over the program and processes in a mixed age group (MAG) classroom. Students were excited to know the group they were going to be a part of, their classmates and the new students joining them this year. They enjoyed working on activities like making birthday charts, duty groups and organising their classroom space. They received their textbooks and notebooks for the different subjects. They also had an orientation to their games, activities and library sessions. A sense of camaraderie amongst students as they interacted and worked with each other in various contexts.



The students of **Class 8** came together after having been in a mixed age environment since junior school. The first few days of the academic year were all about working together, building skills, and understanding the relevance of various activities in school that are part of their daily life. The conversations also moved around the eventuality that they would be moving into senior school at the end of this year.

There was a session with both students and teachers sharing one aspect of themselves that they think is significant yet not well known to the group. Over the next three days the students had sessions on reading and understanding the norms of the school from the diary, participating as a whole group in doing dining hall duties, playing games, spending time in the library and working in small groups for creating the various displays for the class.





There were discussions on following classroom norms, taking care of each other's safety, building openness, trust amongst each other and taking ownership of the space. The portfolio and requirements of academic work were also discussed. A book from the library was used for reflective writing on learning, mindfulness and participation.



The students of **Class 9** came to school on the first day anticipating some change. They felt that they had grown up as they had now moved into senior school. Accordingly they had a relatively short orientation mixed with regular academics. There was conversation around Class 9 being part of senior school and what it entailed in terms of learning and responsibility. Campus care was introduced to the class, eliciting various ideas from the group. We went through the events of the year, with cycle tests notoriously finding mention quite a few times. The students came together to play a whole class game and gelled well as a group. They had a session with Vaishnavi Akka where they reflected on what it meant to value oneself as a person irrespective of skills or abilities.



Coming to **Class 11** after completing Class 10 is generally seen as a transition that is reflected not only in the subjects the students choose but also in their thinking and ways of engaging with the world around them. It was a week full of experiences. The excitement of a new classroom, new teachers, new subjects, catching up with old friends and making new ones. For the few, who have just joined the school, spaces, people and process were new and so the orientation was mostly focussed on settling down and getting familiar with each other and the school space. The class had inner and outer circle interaction with students responding to different prompts to get a sense of their classmates.

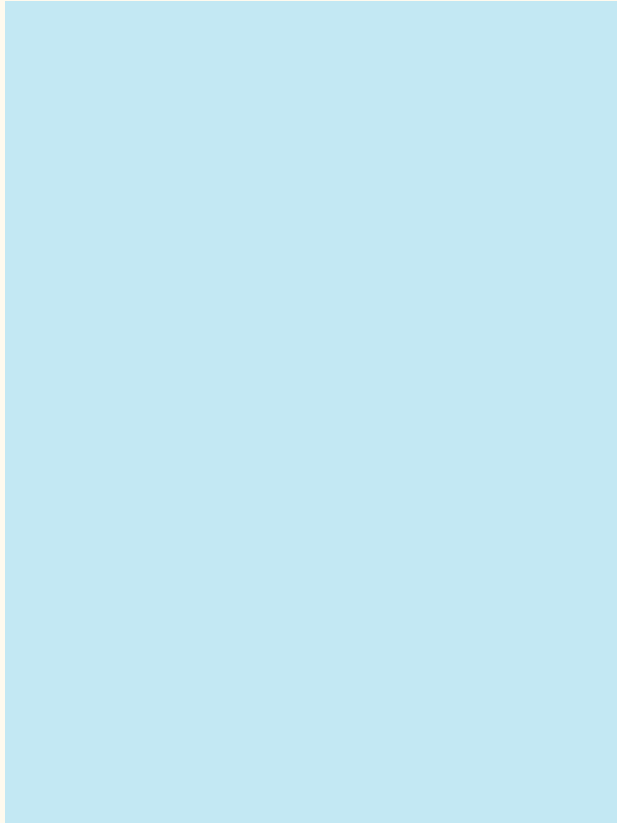
There were also discussions around the various Class 11 programmes. Vaishnavi Akka, Jayashree Akka and Rajiv Anna met them and talked to them about wellness and taking care of the place. They were encouraged to expand their horizons by exploring performances, installations, interactions and places in Chennai and beyond. They also watched a Krishnamurti video on freedom and had a conversation around it.



The students of **classes 10 and 12** who had already begun their academic journey before the vacation, directly launched into continuity as they came into school on the reopening day. Their year is usually a short one owing to the Council exams that begin by February. The teachers and students both are aware of the urgency of the same and get on with the demands of working with academics. They had a short orientation time with a conversation with their class teachers to work with the year. There was also time spent to plan out classroom duties and campus care initiatives. Class 12 ended the first day with a group dance while Class 10 ended their day with a generous sharing of raw mangoes from the trees on campus with salt sprinkled on top.



A Work of Art Unfolds



The senior school students began working on a wall mural around the Assembly Hall area along with Tarit Anna and Ganesan Anna. They came upon the composition of a wild forest with birds and trees being part of the mural.

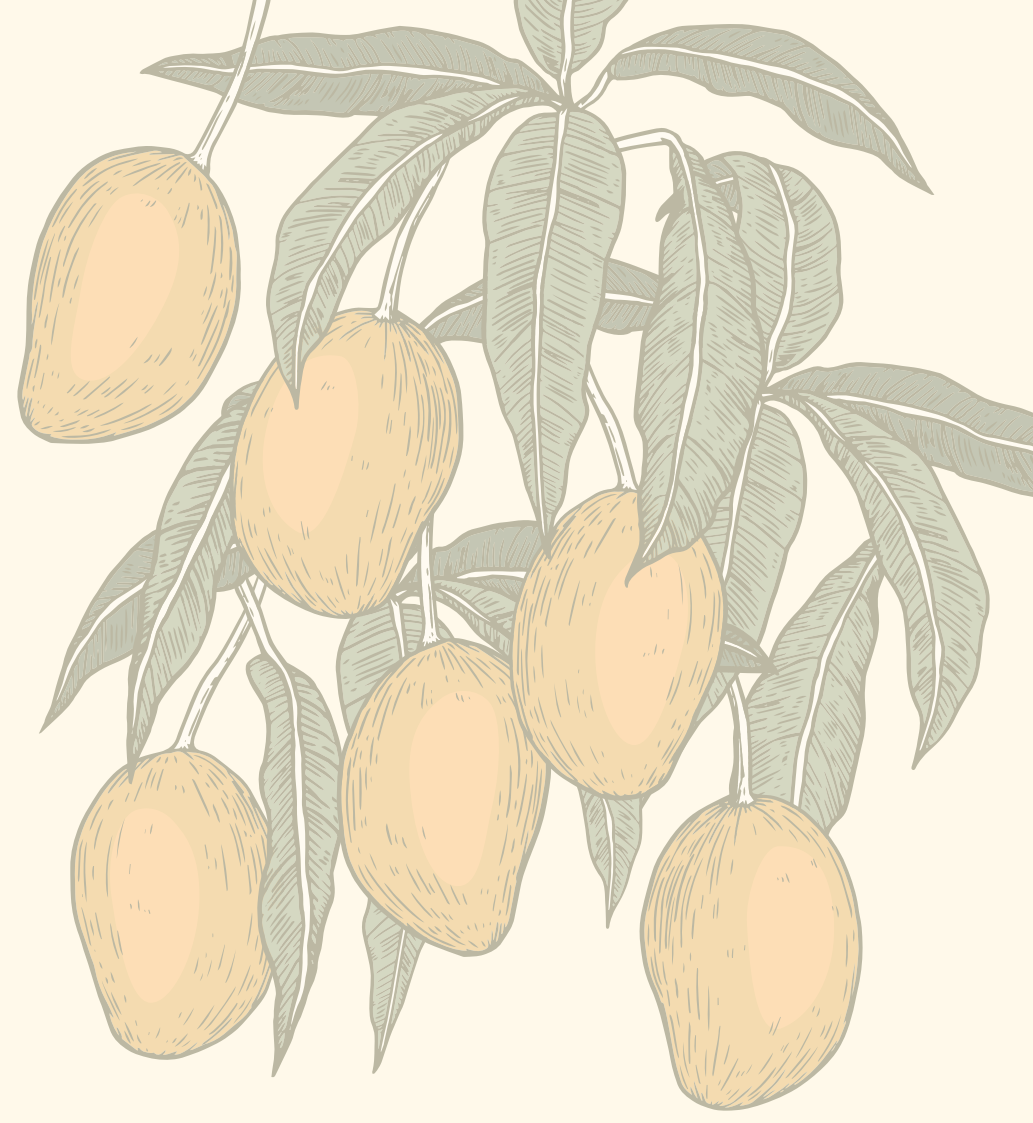


There was a lot of excitement as they got up the ladder to reach the higher parts of the wall. A senior school student said, "Art classes are such fun when we do work like this!"

The students hope to finish this work over the course of this month and then perhaps look at other spaces where the possibility of a mural exists. For now, a work of art unfolds amidst much talk and laughter!



Campus Care by Class 9



The students of Class 9 have campus care as part of their rotational duties every Thursday between 1.30pm and 2.00pm.

Campus care involves a set of activities that the students engage in to take care of different spaces in school. This week their work was quite interesting as they got to bring down the ripe mangoes hanging delectably from the branches. The students got the long sticks with a net at the end to catch the mangoes as they cut them off with a sickle that is attached to the end of the stick.

It was quite the skill to master as they first watched Hari Anna demonstrate it for them and then tried doing it on their own. The students worked diligently and harvested quite a lot of mangoes for use in the school kitchen.

